(d) how Government propose to mobilise resources for replacement of overaged assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The Railway Safety Review Committee identified arrears in renewal ofTrack, Distressed Bridges, Over-aged Signalling Gear and Rolling Stock in 1999 as follows:

Track	12260 Km. (BG) 4996 Km. (MG)
Bridge	262 nos.
Signalling gear	1580 Stations (BG) 830 Stations (MG)
Coaches (nos. in vehicles)	1322 (BG) 1243 (MG)
Wagons (nos. in Four Wheeler Units)	34000

The total cost of renewals, which was estimated to be about Rs. 15000 crores, by the Committee has been reassessed with further accruals to be Rs. 17000 crores, at present day prices.

To fund replacement of these overaged assets, the Government has agreed in principle to set up a non-lapsable Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crores. The detailed modalities for sourcing and operation of the fund are being worked out.

SEBs' dues to Railways

3656. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are withholding huge amounts of Railways for carrying coal to thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the latest details of amounts outstanding against each SEB; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Amount outstanding from State Electricity Boards and Power Houses to end of June 2001 is Rs. 1822.47 Crore.

(b) Dues arose because of the continuing non-viability of the current operations of the SEBs.

(c) The details are given in the statement *(See* below).

(d)The steps taken by the Government to recover the outstanding money include:—

(1) State Electricity Boards and Power Houses which fail to observe the conditions of "Prepayment of Freight" as also payment of current freight are closely monitored by the zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with senior officials of State Electricity Boards and Power Houses.

(2) Pursuant to Government's decision on 07.02.1997 that the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, an amount of Rs. 134.80 crore has been received by Railways up to 31.03.2001.

(3) Adjustment of outstanding from State Electricity Boards against traction bills.

(4) The Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance, Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of concerned State Governments at various levels including that of Minister of Railways, urging early steps for clearance of the dues.

(5) Ministry of Power had set up an Expert Group regarding settlement of SEB Dues.

Statement

SEBs' Dues to Railways

The latest details of amounts outstanding against each SEB are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of State Electricity Board/Power Houses	Total amount outstanding as on 30.6.2001
1. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	39.11
2. Assam State Electricity Board	0.95
3. Bihar State Electricity Board	3.91
4. Delhi Vidyut Board	136.10
5. Gujrat State Electricity Board	160.37
6. Haryana State Electricity Board	35.18
7. Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.33
8. Maharashtra State Electricity Board	19.71
9. Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	7.61
10. Punjab State Electricity Board	217.68
11. Rajasthan State Electricity Board	80.58
12. Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	18.41
13. Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	22.68
14. West Bengal State Electricity Board	29.38
15. Badarpur Thermal Power Station	976.91
16. National Thermal Power Corporation	70.37
17. Damodar Valley Corporation	2.49
18. Private Power House - Sabarmati	0.70
TOTAL:	1822.47

New Visakhapatnam Korba Link Express

3657. DR. Y LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a New Visakhapatnam to Korba Link Express has been started in the South Eastern Railway;